





old onto your hats and your heads, issue twentythree of THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS is head and shoulders above the best of the rest! Peter and Egon find themselves face to face in a head on collision with The Mad Hatter, whose disembodied state is causing him one big headache! Janine's head is in the clouds after reading one too many fairytales, and she finds herself the subject of a duel between the galant Sir Egon and a fire-breathing dragon. Could it be true love at last for Janine and Egon in Janine's Knight in Shining Armour? However, Egon has battles of his own to face when he is posted to a strange dimension, unarmed and confronted by a cruel and tyrannical being in The Post Ghost! If you think Egon is in serious trouble here, you may well be right but, it's nowhere near as serious as the trouble that Winston finds growing before his very eyes in Winston's Diary this week! Dare you read on?

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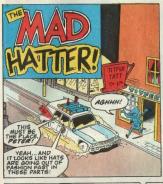
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THE REAL GHOST BUSTERS



THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS

















































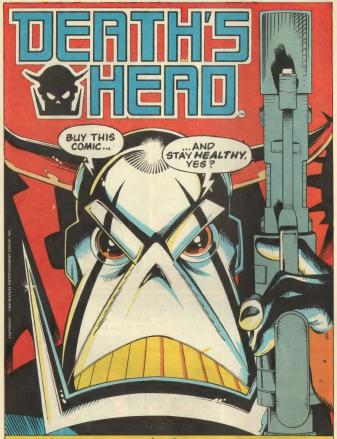












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SPENGLER'S

SPIRIT

Ghosts have an unnerving habit of turning up with bits missing. Headless Horsemen and Wailing Phantoms with their heads held underneath their arms are the stuff of folklore. There's nothing more likely to get the populace fleeing in panic-stricken circles than a ghost with his head not attached to his body by the conventional means i.e. a neck. It's either that, or disembodied hands floating like evil fivelegged spiders through the dusk to do us some nastiness. Why? Are they all lost parts of some Supercosmic mix-andmatch set? What is the reasoning behind Partial Formation Apparitions, or 'ghosts who turn up with bits missing' as Peter calls them?

PARTIAL FORMATION APPARI-TIONS

Ghostbusters the world over generally consider the prime causal device behind the Partial Formation Apparitions is a thing politely referred to as 'Demise Status', which to you or me and especially Peter, really means the manner in which the ghost originally died. Some case histories should elucidate this.

1) Princess Olga of Murminsk.
At the annual ice festival at
Murminsk in 1776, Princess
Olga was decapitated in a
bizarre accident involving a
skipping rope, three yaks and
an over-enthusiastic goatherd.
Since then, her ghost has been
seen wandering the ramparts
of the Winter Palace, head
held in a Yak fur-lined basket.



PART23

Thus – Demise Status: Decapitation = Headless Ghost.

2) The Vandenburgh Seven. A particularly grisly apparition, to be found floating at waist-level on the third floor of the Vandenburgh Department Store in Ottawa. This has been seen every year since the seven members of the Lansome family were slain in a freak escalator accident in 1908.

Thus – Demise Status: Doesn't bear thinking about = Full-torso floaters.

3) St AEIfric the Still. Chronicles from Mercia tell the sad tale of AEIfric, a chieftain of the Saxons who was captured by Viking Berserkers after the battle of Spinney's Bridge. AEIfric had a habit of scratching his head when worried. The Danes told him to sit still and be quiet or face the consequences. That made AEIfric That made AEIfric

GUIDE

worse. So, with the care and consideration for which they are famed, the Vikings cut off his arms and head to stop him scratching.

Just to be sure, they buried the body in four different pix When his people later dug up the body after the Danes had gone, to give their unfortunate lord a proper burial, they found that the arms returned to the head of their own accord for a good scratch. AEI-fric was later canonised (made into a Saint) because of this miracle and buried at Winchester.

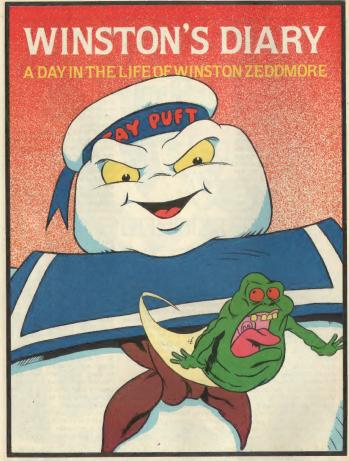
Thus — Demise Status: Decapitation and amputation = Ghost body parts move of their own accord.

4) Nogger Bristow. This ghost has appeared since 1967, following the death of Nogger Bristow, who was trying to drive his taxi under the 3.48 from Crewe for a bet.

Thus – Demise Status: Messy = a ghost flat cap floating seven feet above the level crossing at Rugby.

5) Sir Adrian Lobbingly. Lobbingly was the court hat-maker to King John, who was beheaded for treason after suggesting that the king might like to try a hat not made of jewel-encusted gold. The ghost now wanders the halls of Bokklesbury Castle, holding his head in his hands, wailing that he can never again try on his prized creations.

Thus - Demise Status: Decapitation = Headless Ghost.



Tuesday, 15th November 1988

It sure felt funny going back to the Sedgewick Hotel. Last time we were there, it was back in the early days, back B.W.S.W. (Before We Saved the World). It was then that we first met and busted Slimer. Times have changed.



Well, fate being what it is, we were back again under rather different circumstances. The 13th annual Congress for the Research, Experimentation and Evaluation of the Paranormal (C.R.E.E.P.), was being held in the hotel during the last weekend in November. Egon had been invited as a guest speaker. Janine and I were going along to give him moral support, leaving Ray and Peter in charge of the business for the weekend. Oh yes, and Slimer came with us by stowing away in a suitcase, but that's another story.

Any how, it was all a bit of a trial. Man, the place was full of weird academic guys who were all like Egon. Too much! I found myself queueing for lunch behind four guys from the Occultism Institute of Ohio, who were all animatedly discussing typographical errors in the sixth edition of Tobin's Spirit Guide, or sitting through a lecture on Omni-present, Bi-retracting Repeaters (Full torso). Actually, I slept through that one. It was so dull. I can't imagine why Janine went along at all.

We Ghostbusters had a display stand in the main theatre hall where our busting equipment was on display for all those interested. At the stall next to ours was a squat little guy called Hubert Dangerfield who said he represented the Idaho chapter of the International Ghostfinder's Brotherhood. He said he'd heard of The Real Ghostbusters, but didn't give much creedance to these new fangled 'gizmos', as only the 'tried and tested old ways' were effective against phantoms and the Devil's work.

Dangerfield was good enough to show me some of the 'tried and tested old ways' he was displaying on his table. Wow. Real state-of-the-art. . sheep's bladders. . . and very, very high-tech. . mandrake roots and birch twigs and newts. No doubt, he would have showed me some wing of bat if I'd asked him.

"Anyway," said Dangerfield pressing on and handing me a pamphlet entitled Alchemical Jewelry: the Magical Gift. "What's your position on the sixth edition debate?"

"Sorry?" I replied, politely.
"The Sixth Edition Debate!" Dangerfield
exclaimed with capital letters in case I'd miss
heard. "The debate over the typographical
errors in the sixth edition of Tobin!"

"I don't know anything about it," I ventured truthfully.

Dangerfield then exploded, verbally, in a great tirade about 'cowboy freelancers', 'ill-prepared, disbelieving amateurs' and concluded by announcing to all and sundry that no one in this day and age could hope to combat phantoms and the Devil's work without a keen understanding of the 'old ways', a thorough knowledge of all the major and minor works in the occult genre and, a fundamentally large supply of sheep's bladders.

All of the C.R.E.E.P. delegates nodded solemnly in agreement. Suddenly, I felt very silly about being a Ghostbuster, and about never reading Egon's Spirit Guide, and about believing that a Proton Gun was all I needed to bust ghosts. These guys just knew so much more than me. They really knew what ghostbusting was all about.

Just then, all eyes turned as Egon mounted the rostrum to give his illustrated talk to the C.R.E.E.P. conventioneers. With a heavy heart I sat at the back of the hall, operating the slide machine everytime Egon said "next slide please", and felt sadder and sadder as Egon made it clear that he was fully aware of the Sixth Edition debate and had an answer to it, that he knew all about Omni-present, Biretracting Repeaters (Full Torso) and that he was more than familiar with the properties of Sheeo's Bladders.



It was around then that I decided to quit the business.

During the question and answer session at the end, by which time I was sitting forlornly at the 'busters' stand toying with the flex of a Proton Gun, one of the delegates asked Egon what the most dangerous thing he'd ever faced was. Egon replied that it was the summoned form of the demon, Gozer, inhabiting the massive host body of a giant Stay-Puft Marshmallow man.

Dangerfield got to his feet and asked how Gozer had been summoned. Egon replied that it had probably been done with the Fifth Incantation of Baskshadaskidaskerok.

Oh, replied Dangerfield in a fascinated sort of way. The one that runs "Osk bap minnisque fropp daroddy bun greep. . ."

Dangerfield had just got carried away I guess. The floor of the auditorium seethed

and bubbled and a vast white, viscous mass started to balloon up from the ground with a sickly, sugary reek. No doubt about it, thanks to Dangerfield's unguarded words, Gozer, in the form of a rapidly expanding Mr Stay-Puft was back for a re-match.

"We're in serious trouble here!" chorused

all the delegates.

It seemed clear to me though, that whilst he was still around the twelve feet tall mark, Gozer was still manageable. We had to get him before he expanded in size and power and became unstoppable. So, I charged up my Proton Gun and let him have it. Okay, I admit, I did scream, "GOZER THE GOZERIAN... MAKE MY DAY!" The delegates started to climb out from under their chairs and then started to applaud. The manager of the Sedgewick went to get a stiff drink for Dangerfield and I started to feel a whole lot better.

When the manager of the Sedgewick came back with the drink, he tried to calm down the commotion by telling everyone that in its long and illustrious history, the hotel had only ever been troubled by a ghost once before, and that problem was also long behind us. It was about then Slimer popped out of the suitcase. But that's another story!





THE REAL GHESTBUSTERS































Slimer wants your jokes! Send 'em to: SLIME TIME Marvel Comics Ltd 13/15 Arundel Street London WC2



What do spooks wear in the rain?

Boo-ts and ghoul-oshes!

— Steven Smith, Liverpool

What is an Executioner's favourite sport? Sleighing!

- Jamie Collins, Stratford

Where do witches send their toads when they keep bumping into things?
The hoptician!
— Graham Stanwick, Grays

What does Dr. Frankenstein keep in his glove compartment? Spare fingers and thumbs! – Simon Green, Manchester Where do monsters send their dirty clothes?

To the dry screamers!

Adrian Montgomery,

Stevenage

Why did the monster take his nose apart?

To find out what made it run!

- Scott Langdon, Newcastle

What kind of shoes do witches wear in Summer?
Open toad sandals!

- Mark Harris, Basildon

What's the different between a musician and a corpse?
One composes, the other one decomposes!

- Jake Lyons, Camberwell

What is a ghost's favourite Yuletide song? 'I'm Dreaming Of A Fright Christmas!'

- Kevin Rowan, Sunderland

Why should you always stay calm when you meet a cannibal?
Well there's no point in getting in a stew!
---Craig Weston, Chester

Why didn't the cannibal boil the missionary?

Because he was fryer!

- Matthew Brewer, Cambridge

What happens to Slimer when it rains?

He gets wet!

- Stuart Graves, Exeter

What are Dracula's favourite dogs?

aogs: Bloodhounds!

-Jeremy Collins, Perth

Why did the undertaker chop all his corpses into little bits? Because he wanted them to rest in pieces!

- Sean Ramsey, Holyhead

Where did the ice monster fall in love with the abominable snowman?

At the snow ball!

David Graig, Nottingham

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Lucretia.
Lucretia who?
Lucretia from the Black
Lagoon!
— Colin Stewart, Hants

GHOST BUSKER

Some ghosts are difficult to bust, some are easy and some just need to be tricked into co-operation! That's what happened to the Ghostbusker, When the 'busters were called out to rid a subway of its macabre musician, they found that their Proton Guns were rendered useless against the acoustic barrier put up by the phantom fiddling! Winston managed to distract the fiend's attention by giving it exactly what it wanted - cash, and when it stopped its deafening screeching to pick up the coin - ZAM! The ghost was history!





THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS

























HMM MAYBE
ALLOWING THAN HAS CONTACTED MAIR BOX 15 SOME MAY QUIN RIND OF GATEWAY YUCK-FROM OUR ALLOWING MAY OUT MESSAGE SLEEP DIMENSION AND MY OUT OF HERE.























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THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS 23 Hang on to your hats—John Carnell and John Geering are here with The Mad Hatter, a hair-raising (or maybe hair-covering) feast of chilling chuckles! Add to this Janine's Knight In Shining Armour, Post Ghost and Winston's Diary and you've got an issue crammed with the very best of ghost-hunting escapades!

-FANTASTIC-

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